



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DWR Releases Perris Dam Draft Environmental Impact Report

Proposed project retrofits existing emergency release structure

SACRAMENTO -- The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for a proposed new Lake Perris emergency release facility, as construction continues to upgrade the seismic safety of the State's reservoir and dam in Riverside County.

In 2005, DWR identified potential seismic safety risks in a section of the foundation of the dam and lowered the lake level to ensure maximum public safety until dam repairs are made. The reservoir has since been further drawn down to meet drinking water demands during the prolonged drought.

An emergency outlet, a standard feature of all regulated dams, is currently located near the southeast end of the dam. The outlet is designed to drain the reservoir to avert any potential failure of the dam should an emergency occur.

Due to the slope of the land, the current emergency outlet directs water to the southwest and across the Ramona Expressway. From this direction the water naturally flows toward the Perris Valley Channel, a flood control facility operated and maintained by the Riverside County Flood Control District. This flow direction would pose a risk to the homes southwest of the dam built on what was farmland when the dam was first constructed.

The proposed new emergency release facility would reduce the damage that would be caused to life and property resulting from an emergency release by directing the water northwest through a system of levees and channels. The system is designed to run parallel to the Ramona Expressway and send water directly into the Perris Valley Channel.

The DEIR will be circulated for 45-days for public review. Comments on the DEIR must be received between September 9, 2016 and October 24, 2016.

The DEIR may be viewed and downloaded [here](#). Hard copies may be viewed at the following locations:

- Riverside County Library, Perris Branch (163 E. San Jacinto Ave., Perris, CA 92570)
- Moreno Valley Public Library (25480 Alessandro Blvd., Moreno Valley, CA 92553)

Written comments should be sent to: *Tom Barnes on behalf of the California Department of Water Resources, Perris Dam Emergency Release Facility Project, 626 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90017*, or email comments to: tbarnes@esassoc.com.

A public meeting will be held to receive comments on the DEIR at the following time and location:

**September 27, 2016 6:00 pm
Lakeview Pavilion
Lake Perris State Recreation Area
17801 Lake Perris Drive
Perris, CA 92571**

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